In the Drawings

The attached replacement and annotated sheet(s) of drawings include changes to FIG. 1 as follows:

FIG. 1 has been amended to include the descriptive legend "PRIOR ART."

Attachment: Replacement sheet(s)

Annotated sheet(s) showing changes

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed October 6, 2005 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Drawings

The drawing figures have been corrected in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Specifically, the descriptive legend "PRIOR ART" has been added to FIG. 1. No new matter has been introduced. Approval of the corrections is respectfully requested.

Rejection(s) Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 18 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Matsumaru et al. (U.S. pat. no. 5,818,765, hereinafter, "Matsumaru").

Claims 1 and 19 have been amended to state that, *inter alia*, the absolute value measurement is conducted between "at least one current entering [the] cabinet and the sum of currents leaving [the] cabinet." This feature is not disclosed or suggested by Matsumaru, which, as col. 9, lines 33 – 53 explains, conducts a comparison of current on a supply line for a particular load with a stored value of the acceptable amount current for that load. The comparison in Matsuamru is thus performed on a load-by-load basis, not, as the claims of the present application now specify, on a sum-of-currents basis. This distinction is important at least

because it reduces components, and commensurately, weight and cost. Support for this claimed feature can be found for example on page 8, lines 4 – 17, in the discussion of Kirchoff's law, which pertains to sums of current at a particular point in a circuit.

It will be appreciated that, according to the M.P.E.P., a claim is anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102 only if each and every claim element is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.[1] The aforementioned reasons clearly indicate the contrary, and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejection based on Matsumaru is respectfully urged.

Rejection(s) Under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 2 – 7, 9 – 12, and 20 – 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Matsumaru in view of Benmouyal et al. (U.S. pat. no. 6,757,146, hereinafter, "Benmouyal"). Claims 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Matsumaru in view of Benmouyal and further in view of Goldberg (U.S. pat. no.3,273,018).

Benmouyal and Goldberg fail to remedy the above-mentioned shortcomings of Matsumaru in disclosing or rendering obvious the invention of claims 1 and 19, from which the remaining claims depend. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the obviousness

[1] Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) § 2131. See also *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

rejection of these claims based on the combination of Matsumaru and Benmouyal, or the combination of Matsumaru and Benmouyal and Goldberg, is improper and should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the preceding discussion, Applicants respectfully urge that the claims of the present application define patentable subject matter and should be passed to allowance.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone call would help advance prosecution of the present invention, the Examiner is kindly invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number below.

Please charge any additional required fees, including those necessary to obtain extensions of time to render timely the filing of the instant Amendment and/or Reply to Office Action, or credit any overpayment not otherwise credited, to our deposit account no. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,
THELEN REID & PRIEST, L.L.P.

Dated: 1/6/6

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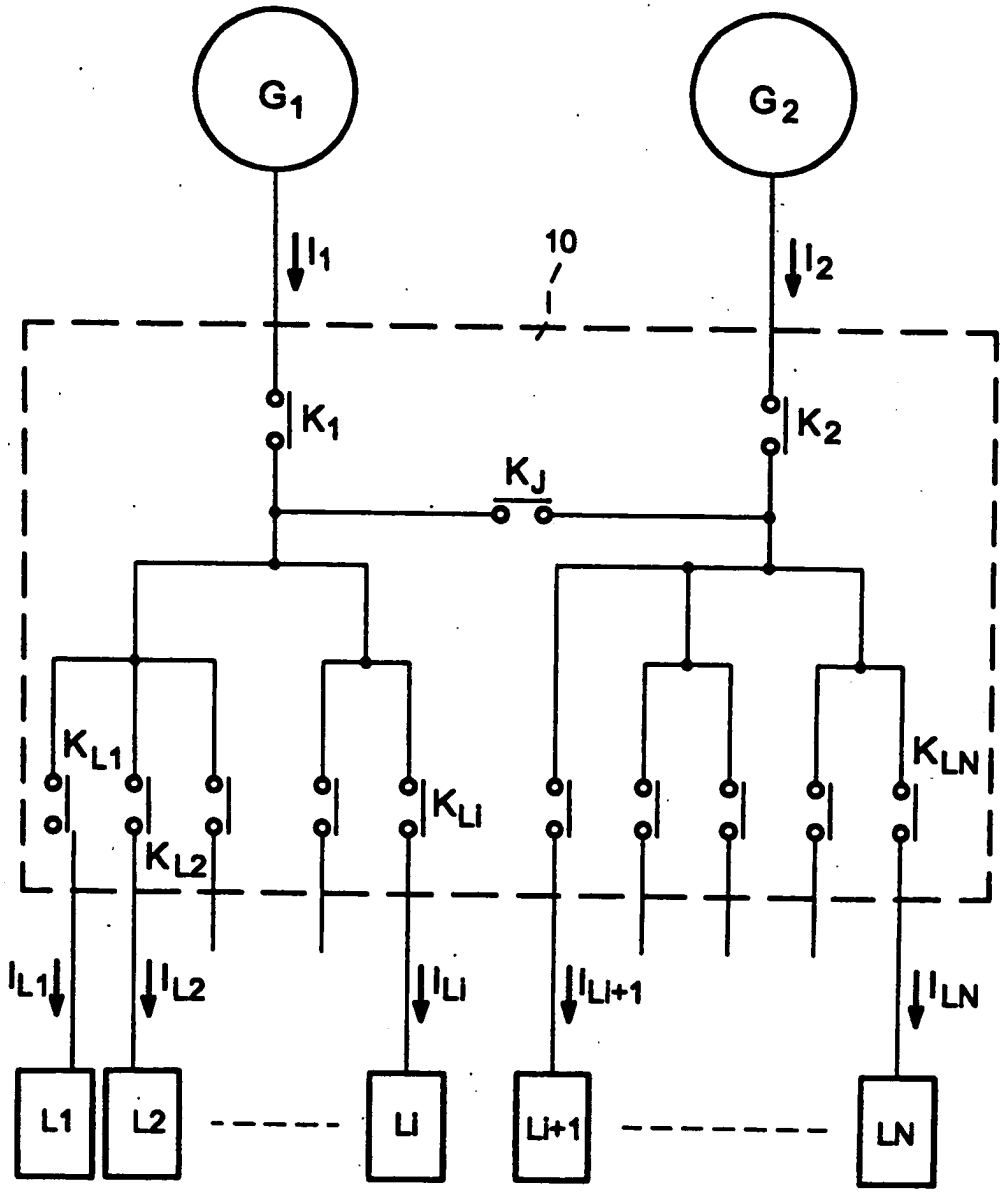

FIG. 1
(PRIOR ART)